

✓
H A M L E T
©CL 17148

.....
A T R A G E D Y
.....

Prelude and Six Acts Founded upon
An old Historical Tale discovered
by Professor Vining, noted American
Literatuer.

.....
CHARACTERS:

Hamlet, King of Denmark
Gertrude, Queen of Denmark
Claudius, brother of King Hamlet
Prince Hamlet
Horatio, his friend
Polonius, Court Chamberlain
Laertes, his son
Ophelia, his daughter
Fortinbras, King of Norway

1921 S- VOM

The ASTA FILMS, INC. production of HAMLET is taken from the source which furnished Shakespeare the inspiration for his immortal tragedy.

Some years ago Professor Vining in his researches found an old Hamlet-Saga, or historical chronicle, which presents the Danish Prince in a new and interesting light, often similar to Shakespeare's version, and often quite different.

Hamlet, as realistically portrayed by Asta Nielsen, makes a rare appeal to the human heart. Her rendering of the ill-fated Prince makes every moment a tragic one and gives a vivid impression of the pain and suffering of a noble soul. Asta Nielsen is supported by a galaxy of artists who form an ensemble which, in point of excellence, no other motion picture has hitherto reached.

In this production the art of Motion Pictures has taken a great step forward. Thousands of performers were engaged for months on this great production and no expense was spared in the making of it.

During the early Middle Ages there was fierce fighting between Denmark and Norway. In one of the conflicts Fortinbras, King of Norway, is killed by Hamlet, King of Denmark, who is himself wounded in the same battle.

During the battle queen Gertrude of Denmark gives birth to a daughter in the Royal Palace at Elsinore. A messenger arrives with an incorrect report of the death of King Hamlet. The Queen, seeing the crown and throne lost if there is no male issue, is greatly perturbed. Her nurse proposes to the Queen that her subjects be deceived and that they be told that a son has been born. This is done. King Hamlet returns from battle none the worse from his wounds, learns of the Queen's deception and dares not disclose it to his subjects.

In boy's attire the royal child grows up and bears the name of his father, Prince Hamlet. Hamlet is sent to the famous school for noble youths at Wittenberg. Here among his happy student companions, he meets young Horatio, also his countryman Laertes, the son of Polonius, Chamberlain at King Hamlet's court. He later meets Prince Fortinbras of Norway who is the son of the king who fell in the battle against the army led by Hamlet's father. But the royal sons are young, and have no desire to keep alive the enmity of their fathers, and a strong bond of friendship is soon sealed between them. Hamlet develops a deep regard for Horatio, the depth of which is never suspected by his young friends.

In the royal household at Elsinore foul and terrible deeds are happening. Claudius, King Hamlet's brother and uncle to Prince Hamlet, has entered upon a love intrigue with the

Queen. He murders the royal brother while the latter is asleep, by means of a poisonous snake and seizes the throne. Prince Hamlet at Wittenberg receives the news of his father's death and hastens back to Denmark accompanied by the faithful Horatio. In the King's household Hamlet finds neither sorrow nor mourning. On the contrary, they are celebrating his mother's wedding with Claudius, the new king. Hamlet finds himself alone in his grief. A terrible suspicion takes hold of him. Hamlet questions the old gardener who found the body of his father, and upon investigation near the dungeon where the snakes were kept, he finds a dagger which Claudius had dropped there. Hamlet decides to watch his uncle closely for further proof and conceives the idea of feigning madness to better follow up his clues. Only to his beloved friend Horatio has Hamlet confided his terrible suspicion and the dangerous game he is playing.

Ophelia, daughter of Polonius, is sent by her father to distract Hamlet and finds herself in danger of losing her heart to the royal youth. Hamlet, however, remains cold and true to his purpose of avenging his father.

A new pang wrings the heart of Hamlet when he sees his loving comrade Horatio, whom he has long loved with deep feeling, falling a victim to the charms of Ophelia.

A wandering theatrical troupe passes the palace and Hamlet conceives the idea of a performance to be given before Claudius in which is portrayed the murder of a king in the manner he suspects his father was murdered. At the presentation of this play Claudius betrays his guilt. Broken in soul, Hamlet goes to his mother the Queen, but becomes aware that there is a listener in the adjoining room. Suspecting it is Claudius,

Hamlet thrusts his sword through the curtains, and kills Polonius, Ophelia's father.

Claudius realises that the blow was intended for him and decides to get rid of Hamlet. He commands him, with two court attendants whom he has made aware of his purpose, to deliver a message to King Fortinbras of Norway. Hamlet obeys in silence but at the first halting place in Norway he obtains possession of the parchment entrusted to his two companions, breaks the seal and reads the order for his own doom, which Claudius commands Fortinbras, as his vassal, to execute. Hamlet's quill quickly makes a slight change in the document, substituting the names of his attendants for his own. The journey is resumed and Hamlet delivers the order to King Fortinbras, his friend of Wittenberg days. The two conspirators are dragged away to the gallows where they expiate their own and their master's crime. Hamlet acquaints Fortinbras with what has occurred at Elsinore. Ophelia's mind gives way at the thought of her father dead by Hamlet's hand and she wanders to her death in a nearby brook.

Laertes learns upon his return from Wittenberg of his father's death and his sister's unhappy fate. At the head of an angry mob, already inflamed against the cruelty of the usurping king, Laertes, sword in hand, seeks vengeance for his father's death. Claudius tells him that Hamlet is the slayer of his father.

Fortinbras' army is already on the march and is soon camping in the neighborhood of Elsinore. At dawn Fortinbras will resume his march. Hamlet proceeds in advance.

He surprises Claudius in the midst of a drunken orgy.

A drunken stupor overpowers the revellers. Hamlet sets fire to the place and thus Claudius meets his death.

Queen Gertrude, forgetting all motherly instincts, seeks revenge for the death of Claudius. When Laertes, seeking vengeance on Hamlet, prepares to fight a duel with him, the Queen prevails upon Laertes to dip his sword with poison to insure the death of Hamlet. To make assurance doubly sure, she prepares a goblet of poison for Hamlet in case Laertes should fail.

The iron feet of Fate draw near heavy with doom. Hamlet and Laertes begin the duel. Hamlet is at first superior to his opponent. At a halt in the fight, he refuses the refreshment offered by the Queen in the shape of the poisoned cup. An attendant innocently rearranges the wine cups and the Queen herself falls a victim to the poisoned cup. Her shriek of "Poison!" momentarily distracts Hamlet and Laertes pierces him with the poisoned sword.

Horatio kneels beside the dying Prince and as he lays him down on the steps of the throne, he discovers with deep emotion Hamlet's tragic secret. Too late is Horatio made aware that his comrade was a woman, -too late he recognises that it was a deeper feeling than friendship which bound him to the unhappy Prince. Fortinbras is also to realize the deep tragedy spread before him. As his army enters the palace he sees at the foot of the throne ~~which he~~ *the dead body of his father Hamlet at* which he was to have ascended, ~~his body~~ Hamlet's body is raised aloft and borne on a shield by Fortinbras' warriors to its final resting place.

F I N I S.

LAW OFFICES
FULTON BRYLAWSKI
JENIFER BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE MAJ 985-986

NOV -2 1921

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of
Famous Players-Lasky Corporation

LADIES MUST LIVE (8 reels)

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

The Famous Players-Lasky Corporation hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright Office as follows:

Title	Date of Deposit	Registration
LADIES MUST LIVE	11/2/21	L: ©CL 17143

16 Copies Returned
NOV 4 1921

By D. E. Person

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 2d day of November, 1921 and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies and the receipt thereof.

NOV -4 1921
★ O.K.-F.G.R.

Entirely yours,
Fulton Brylawski

This document is from the Library of Congress
“Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection,
1912-1977”

Collections Summary:

The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004>

Class M Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002>



National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress